

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 SP-01 PM-03 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 DRC-01

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R 261445Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7222

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

S E C R E T BLANTYRE 954

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MI, PO, MZ

SUBJ: JORGE JARDIM'S ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH POSITION WITH PORTUGUESE
ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (MFA)

1. SUMMARY: FROM INFORMATION GIVEN BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER
BLANTYRE BY JARDIM'S HENCHMAN DE SOUSA, IT APPEARS JARDIM MAY
BE ATTEMPTING TO USE MFA CONTACTS TO RESTORE HIS POSITION WITH
PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. JARDIM ALSO REPORTEDLY HELD MEETING
IN ZAMBIA WITH TANZANIAN OFFICIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER
BLANTYRE SHOULD BE STRICTLY PROTECTED.

3. ON JULY 24 JAIME DE SOUSA, JARDIM'S MAN IN MALAWI, ASKED TO SEE
HIGH COMMISSIONER RITCHIE. PER RITCHIE, MAIN PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS
TO PERSUADE BRITISH THAT JARDIM'S ACTIVITIES, IN CONTRAST WITH
LISBON'S ACCUSATIONS, HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND ARE IN LINE WITH
POLICIES OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT IN PORTUGAL (MFA). DE SOUSA
REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED EFFORTS HE AND JARDIM HAD MADE IN PAST YEAR,

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WITH BLESSINGS OF PRESIDENTS BANDA AND KAUNDA, TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH

FRELIMO OFFICIALS IN LUSAKA. JARDIM AND DE SOUSA VISITED LUSAKA AGAIN RECENTLY WHERE, IN ADDITION TO TALKS WITH MARK CHONA, THEY ALSO MET SENIOR TANZANIAN OFFICIAL (DE SOUSA THOUGHT IT WAS MINISTER OF STATE IN PRESIDENT NYERERE'S OFFICE). JARDIM REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED WITH LATTER OFFICIAL HIS IDEAS FOR APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR IN MOZAMBIQUE WITH POWERS TO NEGOTIATE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH FRELIMO PARTICIPATION. JARDIM ALSO PROPOSED RETENTION OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY BASE IN MOZAMBIQUE. TANZANIAN OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THIS IDEA AS COUNTER TO INCREASING SOVIET AND AMERICAN WEIGHT IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA (SIC). IN MEETING WITH CHONA, LATTER SUGGESTED JARDIM AND DE SOUSA TALK DIRECTLY WITH FRELIMO ABOUT ABOVE IDEAS. HOWEVER, THEY HAD NOT DONE SO DURING VISIT.

4. CONTINUING, DE SOUSA TOLD RITCHIE THAT HE AND JARDIM MET SUBSEQUENTLY WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGUESE MFA IN BLANTYRE. THEY PROVIDED WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THEIR PROPOSALS WHICH MFA REP AGREED CONVEY TO MFA LISBON BY JULY 21. DE SOUSA STRESSED HE CERTAIN PORTUGUESE FONMIN SOARES WAS ACTING ON WRONG INFORMATION ABOUT JARDIM'S ACTIVITIES AND INTENTIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE. HE INSISTED THERE WERE PEOPLE IN MFA WHO KNEW THIS TO BE TRUE AND WOULD SUPPORT JARDIM. SIMILARLY, PRESIDENT BANDA KNEW AND APPROVED OF ALL JARDIM'S ACTIVITIES.

5. DE SOUSA DESCRIBED SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE AS RAPIDLY DETERIORATING FROM ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STANDPOINT. HE FORESAW "ANOTHER CONGO" UNLESS PROMPT ACTION TAKEN TO RESTORE CONTROL. HE DENIED (NOT VERY CONVINCINGLY ACCORDING TO RITCHIE) THAT JARDIM HAD BEEN IN MOZAMBIQUE IN RECENT WEEKS OR THAT JARDIM WAS INVOLVED WITH ANY KINE OF PARA-MILITARY ORGANIZATION THERE.

6. COMMENT: IF DE SOUSA'S ASSERTIONS CORRECT, IT WOULD APPEAR HE AND JARDIM BELIEVE THEY MAY BE ABLE TO REKINDLE SUPPORT FOR THEIR MOZAMBIQUE ACTIVITIES THROUGH CONTACTS IN MFA. THEY MAY ALSO FEEL THEY CAN COUNTERACT SOARES' ANTIPATHY TOWARD JARDIM BY THIS APPROACH. WHETHER OR NOT THESE

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ARE WORKABLE TACTICS, THEY SHOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT BANDA WHO DOUBTLESS WOULD LIKE TO SEE GOP ELEMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT SUSPENSION OF RELATIONS WITH MALAWI BROUGHT IN FOR CENSURE. WHY JARDIM AND DE SOUSA SAW FIT TO INFORM BRITISH OF THEIR APPROACH IS UNCLEAR. HIGH COMMISSIONER RITCHIE SUSPECTS PRESIDENT BANDA MAY HAVE PUT THEM UP TO IT AS PART OF CAMPAIGN OF INSISTENCE THAT BANDA, JARDIM AND CO ARE

RIGHT AND GOP FONOFF WRONG IN CURRENT DISPUTE. THUS
FAR, HOWEVER, DE SOUSA HAS NOT MADE SIMILAR PITCH TO
ANY OTHER BLANTYRE EMBASSY.
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